

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EB-08 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00
JUSE-00 L-03 FTC-01 FPC-01 FEAE-00 CAB-05 FMC-02 H-02
/083 W

-----041836Z 025336 /44

R 041721Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6176
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 03969

PASS COMMERCE AND JUSTICE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OTRA, OVIP, EGEN, ECON, GW, US
SUBJECT: TEAM FROM CDU/CSU'S "MITTELSTANDSVEREINIGUNG"
TO VISIT US IN MAY 1977

SUMMARY: A CDU/CSU DELEGATION OF BUNDESTAG DEPUTIES AND
BUSINESSMEN PLANS TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES MAY 14-22
TO DISCUSS COMPETITION MATTERS, ANTITRUST LAWS, AND THE
GENERAL ECONOMIC SITUATION. THE DELEGATION HOPES THAT
THE FRG FOREIGN MINISTRY AND EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WILL
SET UP ITS PROGRAM FOR VISITS TO NEW YORK, WASHINGTON
AND DETROIT. WE HAVE AGREED TO OFFER SUGGESTIONS, AND
WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY THOUGHTS FROM ADDRESSEES. END
SUMMARY.

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1. WE CALL TO THE ATTENTION OF ALL ADDRESSEES THE
PROSPECTIVE VISIT BY A DELEGATION FROM THE CDU/CSU'S
"MITTELSTANDSVEREINIGUNG" TO THE UNITED STATES, MAY 14-
22. THIS ORGANIZATION, WHOSE TITLE LOOSELY MEANS
"ORGANIZATION OF MIDDLE-CLASS BUSINESS AND TRADE GROUPS,"
IS AN AFFILIATE OF THE OPPOSITION CDU/CSU. ITS MEMBER-
SHIP INCLUDES A LARGE SEGMENT OF WEST GERMAN BUSINESSMEN

AND CRAFTSMEN, AND A LIMITED NUMBER OF OTHER PROFESSIONALS AND ACADEMIC TYPES. IT HOLDS A CONSERVATIVE PHILOSOPHY WHICH FAVORS MARKET ECONOMIC PRINCIPLES WITH MINIMUM STATE INTERFERENCE.

2. THIS WILL BE THE FIRST SUCH DELEGATION TO VISIT THE US SINCE THE LATE 1960'S. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SOME 20 PERSONS WILL TAKE PART, INCLUDING A HANDFUL OF CDU/CSU BUNDESTAG DEPUTIES WITH BUSINESS OR TRADE INTERESTS AND PERHAPS SOME LANDTAG DEPUTIES AS WELL. THE TENTATIVE LIST OF BUNDESTAG PARTICIPANTS IS:

PROFESSOR DR. GERHARD ZEITEL, PRESIDENT OF THE
"MITTELSTANDSVEREINIGUNG," CDU
NICOLAUS DREYER, CDU
LORENZ NIEGEL, CSU
EGON LAMPERSBACH, CDU
DR. MANFRED LUDA, CDU
PETER SCHMIDHUBER, CSU
DR. CHRISTIAN SCHWARZ-SCHILLING, CDU

3. THE FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL CARTEL OFFICE (BUNDESKARTELLAMT), PROFESSOR DR. GUENTHER, HAS PROPOSED AN AMBITIOUS PROGRAM OF MEETINGS IN NEW YORK, WASHINGTON, AND DETROIT.

A. NEW YORK AREA. TALKS WITH THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MANUFACTURERS AND THE NATIONAL RETAIL MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION, ON COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS OF SMALL AND MIDDLE-SIZED BUSINESS; TALKS WITH CRAFT AND AGRICULTURAL

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GROUPS; VISITS TO ONE OR TWO MIDDLE-SIZED BUSINESSES;

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AMCONSUL STUTTGART

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TALKS WITH ANTITRUST ATTORNEYS; VISITS TO THE "NEW YORK TIMES" AND NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE; AND TALKS AT PRINCETON UNIVERSITY WITH EXPERTS ON USG COMPETITION POLICY.

B. WASHINGTON. TALKS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE; THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION; THE DOJ ANTITRUST DIVISION; SEVERAL REGULATORY COMMISSIONS SUCH AS THE FPC, FEA, ICC, CAB, AND FMC; THE SENATE ANTITRUST AND MONOPOLY SUB-COMMITTEE; THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS; AND THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.

C. DETROIT. A TOUR OF THE FORD OR GM PLANTS AND DISCUSSION OF THE COMPETITIVE SITUATION IN THE AUTO-UNCLASSIFIED

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MOBILE INDUSTRY; DISCUSSIONS WITH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPS ON (1) THE EFFECTS WHICH LARGE CORPORATIONS HAVE ON THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC STRUCTURE AND (2) THE SITUATION OF SMALL AND MIDDLE-LEVEL SUPPLIERS.

4. THE "MITTELSTANDSVEREINIGUNG" REALIZES THIS PROPOSAL IS VERY AMBITIOUS AND THAT IT MAY BE IMPOSSIBLE TO FIT EVERYTHING INTO THE FEW DAYS WHICH ARE AVAILABLE. MOREOVER, THERE MAY BE SLIPPAGE IN THE MAY 14-22 TIMETABLE. THE "MITTELSTANDSVEREINIGUNG" PLANS SOON TO APPROACH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN BONN TO SEEK ASSISTANCE FROM THE FRG EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON IN SETTING UP A FULL PROGRAM. WE HAVE AGREED TO OFFER SUGGESTIONS FOR THIS PROGRAM, AND WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY THOUGHTS THAT ADDRESSEES MAY HAVE.

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: OTRA, OVIP, EGEN, ECON, GE, US, CDU/CSU
To: STATE
Type: TE
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